

In re Patent Application of:  
YOUNGBLOOD  
Serial No. 09/909,183  
Filing Date: JULY 19, 2001

REMARKS

The requirement for restriction, as set forth in the outstanding Office Action, is respectfully traversed.

As Applicant understands the requirement for restriction, a distinction has been alleged between the combination of a SLIC and a transient output current limit circuit on the one hand, and the details of the output current limit circuit, on the other hand.

At the outset, Applicant respectfully submits that the segregation of the claims on the basis of combination and subcombination is incorrect on its face.

For example, Claim 7, which depends upon Claim 6, has been alleged as being drawn to the subcombination detailing the output current limit circuit. However, Claim 7 depends upon Claim 1 and is part of an overall circuitry defining the SLIC in combination with the output current limit circuit. As such, Claims 7-11 necessarily include all of the features of Claim 1 from which they depend and are therefore not segregatable in the manner proposed in the Office Action.

The same holds true for Claims 20-24, which respectively depend upon Claim 15 and thereby necessarily incorporate all of the subject matter of Claim 15.

Likewise, Claims 37-39 necessarily incorporate all of the subject matter of Claim 36, upon which they depend so that they too are directed to the overall combination of the SLIC and the transient output current limit circuit.

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Of all the claims presented for consideration, the only claims which is directed to the details of the transient output current limit circuit, per se, are Claims 27-34. However, the features of these claims are embodied in the claims dependent upon independent Claim 1, for example, so that there exist claims in which the combination necessarily requires the particulars of the subcombination. As such, the requirement for restriction does not comply with the provisions of the MPEP upon which it is based and should therefore be withdrawn.

For purposes of being fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action, Applicants tentatively elects the claims of Group I, as set forth at the top of page 2 of the outstanding Office Action.

It is respectfully requested, however, that the Office Action be reconsidered and that a complete action on the merits of all the claims be forthcoming.

If any extension and/or fee is required, authorization is given to charge Deposit Account No. 01-0484.

Respectfully submitted,



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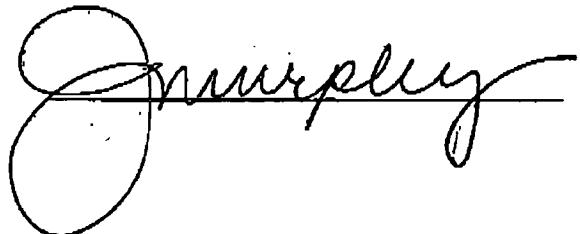
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: M/S AMENDMENT, COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS, PO BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450, on this 13 day of September, 2004.

A handwritten signature in cursive ink, appearing to read "Murphy", is written over a horizontal line. To the left of the signature is a large, roughly circular outline.